

Claims

1. Muzzle (12) comprising a restraining part (14) designed to surround the mouth of an animal (10) to prevent it from opening, and means for holding (20, 22) the part on the head, characterized in that said part (14) is arranged in such a way that it opens elastically so long as it is subjected to a force below a limit value, and is locked if that force is exceeded.
2. The muzzle of claim 1, characterized in that the restraining part (14) includes a strap (16) designed to surround the animal's mouth (10) and a blocking mechanism (18) co-operating with the strap (16) and comprising:
 - a reel (28) provided with a core (28a) to which one end of the strap is attached;
 - a frame (24) on which the reel (28) is mounted mobile in rotation and to which the other end of the strap is rigidly attached;
 - a spring (38) linking the reel (28) to the frame (24) and arranged in such a way that said strap (16) is wound on the reel (28) when the spring (38) is let down, while the spring is wound up when the strap (16) is unreeled;
 - a device for measuring the speed of rotation of the reel, and
 - a bolt co-operating with the speed measurement device and arranged so as to lock the reel when the speed exceeds its limit value.
3. The muzzle of claim 2, characterized in that the speed measurement device and the bolt are of the mechanical inertia type.
4. The muzzle of claim 3, characterized in that the speed measurement device contains an inertia component (36, 38) positioned elastically and mounted pivoting on the reel around an axis offset relative to its centre of gravity (G), and the bolt includes a lock mechanism provided with:
 - teeth (24f) integral with the frame, and

- a latch (36b) contained in the inertia component (36) in its part opposite the pivoting axis relative to the centre of gravity (G), designed to co-operate with the teeth (24f).
5. The muzzle of claim 2, characterized in that the speed measurement device contains an electric sensor and the bolt contains an electromechanical transducer (52) and a bolt (54) actuated by the transducer (52), and co-operating with the coil (28) to lock it when the speed exceeds a limit value.
 6. The muzzle of claim 5, characterized in that the sensor contains a generator (46) equipped with a rotor (44) and a stator (48), one incorporating a magnet and the other a winding, the rotor (44) is mounted rigidly on said reel (28), and the winding (50) contains two terminals connected to the terminals of said transducer (52), the generator and the transducer being arranged in such a way that said bolt is activated whenever the reel exceeds a limit speed.
 7. The muzzle of any of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that it comprises two straps (16) and two mechanisms (18), each mechanism co-operating with one of said straps.